



Moab Division of Fire Management

Price Field Office, Moab Field Office, Monticello Field Office

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Big Canyon Fire is at it again

Emery County, Utah... ... Big Canyon Fire flared up Wednesday morning August 25, approximately 3am. Various sheriff offices from Utah and Colorado called in with the smoke reports. Hot dry winds in the vicinity and low humidity level have contributed to the increase in fire behavior.

Firefighters returned to the fire Wednesday morning. Resources included two "Heavy" wildland engines, a "Light" wildland engine, a medium type three helicopter and a large type one helicopter. Approximately 30 firefighters are on scene at this time. The lightning caused fire is located in Big Canyon adjacent to Desolation Canyon approximately two miles south of the Carbon and Emery County border.

"The fire is burning in a location that is so rugged and steep even the bighorn sheep avoid it", said Dave Engleman, the Fire Management Officer for the Bureau of Land Management. Past efforts have been limited by the extreme terrain. Plans had been developed since the fire started on August 7th should the behavior increase and become erratic. However, firefighters were limited to building fuel breaks in accessible locations.

The fire is now burning on approximately 900 acres. So far the previously built fire lines appear to be holding and will continue to be improved. Management will be watching the weather this morning. If conditions are optimal, burn-out operations will be conducted. The goal is to corral the fire on the wilderness area and keep the fire from growing into Range Creek.

Weather is always the fulcrum point in wildland fire fighting. If fire management gets the ideal weather conditions, today could be a turning point.

For more fire information go to website www.utahfireinfo.gov.

Remember only you can prevent wildfires. Do your part. Don't start wildfires.

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